

Appl No. 09/976,206

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The foregoing amendments to the specification are presented to clarify the official record in respect of the above-identified application.

The amended paragraph of the specification properly indicates that this application claims "the benefit of", instead of "priority from", the earlier patent applications that were already identified in the specification.

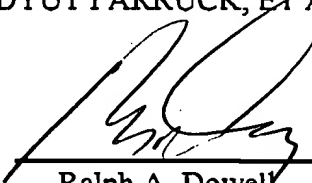
For the assistance of the Examiner, Applicant has also clarified that the present application is a divisional of parent U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/851,565, and that the parent application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Applications Serial Nos. 09/823,667 and 09/779,381.

Applicant notes that this application had previously been amended to include specific references to the earlier applications of which the benefit is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 120. The above amendments merely clarify the benefit claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early action to this end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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